

Appl. No. 10/613,512
Amdt. dated March 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 12, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 7

Claims 1-3 and 7 have been rejected as obvious over the combination of Asari et al. (6,031,470), Smith et al. (6,114,977) and Batra (6,317,061).

Asari is cited as showing multiple devices (keyboard and mouse) wirelessly connecting to a light receiving unit, which the office action equates to the claimed wireless hub.

Smith is cited as showing the switching between number pad and calculator functions for the number pad on a keyboard, with a separate display for the number pad in the calculator mode.

Batra is cited as showing separating the number pad and the keyboard.

However, it is not obvious to combine these references to arrive at the invention, and the obvious manner of combination would not produce the invention. Batra shows a docking station from which a small version of a keyboard can be removed, leaving the number pad and other parts, such as various ports. Batra does not show a keyboard and number pad which both independently communicate with a wireless hub. Rather, Batra shows a docking station, in which the keyboard communicates wirelessly with the docking station (including the number pad), which then communicates with the computer.

It is submitted that the way shown in Batra is the obvious one. If one were to add the functionality of Asari and Smith to Batra, one would use the wireless connection shown in Batra, which is similar to Asari - the keyboard or docking station communicates with the computer receiver, there is no suggestion of a separate wireless or other connection from a separate number pad to the receiver. With respect to Smith, adding the switching between a number pad and calculator would not change the communication link through the docking station shown in Batra, nor suggest changing it to one of skill in the art.

Claim 3. With respect to claim 3, the office action relies on "conventionality" without citing any reference. However, the invention as claimed in claim 3 is not simply the idea of navigation buttons, but the realization of the benefits of adding these to a separate number pad

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/ calculator device that turns it into a media control device. Thus, as explained in the application, this device can be independently used to control media, since it has the unique combination of functions required for that, without requiring the user to lug around the entire keyboard. As admitted in the office action, there is no suggestion of this in the cited references. There is also no suggestion of this in "conventionality." The assignee of this invention, Logitech, is the first to bring to market a product with such a separate combination of functions.

Claims 4, 5 and 8-10.

Claims 4, 5 and 8-10 were rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Asari, Smith and Chen (US 2002/0190955). This combination is not obvious for similar reasons to those discussed above for navigation buttons in claim 3. The combination of a separate wireless number pad / calculator is not obvious as discussed above. In addition, there is no suggestion in Chen of the desire or advantages of combining a media button in a separate number pad / calculator, to communicate separately and directly with the computer through a hub. This unique combination allows control of media, such as from the couch in one's living room, without the other functionality on a keyboard. Chen envisions adding the media button as additional functionality to a keyboard, not a separate module.

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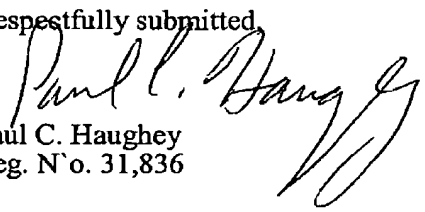
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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